

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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SANT LA ANNOUNCES PROSPERITY CAMPAIGN HAITIAN MEDIA PRESS CONFERENCE

Contact: Alphonse Piard (305) 573-4871
When: Friday January 19, 2006 , Noon
Where: Sant La, 5000 Biscayne Boulevard, suite 110
Invited: Elected officials, Prosperity Campaign clients

Miami, Florida (January 12, 2005) – Miami-Dade County’s Haitian Community is one of the overall youngest communities, with some of the lowest household incomes. These facts were released by the Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program in a report titled *The Haitian Community in Miami-Dade: A Growing the Middle Class Supplement*. This report offers an specific information about the Haitian community in Miami-Dade County. It offers income trends and explores some of the reasons behind low incomes and higher poverty rates of Miami’s Haitian population.

The report states in part that:

- 25% of Haitians in Miami-Dade spend over 50% of their income on housing costs.
- Median home value for the average Haitian family is \$92,000, while the average median home value for Miami-Dade County residents is \$124,000.
- Median age for the average Haitian in Miami-Dade is 28.5, and average age of a Miami-Dade County resident is 35.8
- Approximately 19% of Haitians do not own a vehicle contrary to their white and Cuban counterparts where 10% and 5% respectively do not have vehicles.
- Haitians in Miami-Dade have a median household income of \$27,284, which is \$9,000 less than the county’s median household income and \$22,000 less than Miami-Dade whites.

In its recommendations to improve conditions in the Haitian community the report strongly proposes “Haitian workers maximize the benefits available to them such as the Earned Income Tax Credit”. It is critical that we educate our community about the need to access the Earned Income and Child Tax Credits but more importantly we must encourage working families to invest and grow the tax credits they will receive as a result of their hard work “ comments Sant La’s Executive Director, Gepsie M. Metellus.